

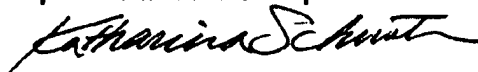
As a good faith attempt to expedite the prosecution and explicitly place the present application in a condition for allowance, claims 7, 9-10, 16, and 18-19 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 20-21 were cancelled previously. By this Amendment, claims 1-6, 8, 11-15, 17, and 22-30 are pending. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6, 8, 11-15, 17, and 22-30 are patentable over the prior art of record.

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in a condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include any acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office communication. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of claims 1-6, 8, 11-15, 17, and 22-30. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

Applicant does not believe any fees are due and owing. If any fees are required, or if any amounts have been overpaid, the Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

Respectfully submitted,

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